

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-07 SS-20 SSO-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /055 W

----- 017599

R 091716Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8213

INFO WHITE HOUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 08708

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, FR

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON FROM FRENCH

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FOUCHET

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON FROM FRENCH MINOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CHRISTIAN FOUCHET, GAULLIST STALWART AND FORMER MINISTER WHO BROKE WITH UDR IN 1971, TOGETHER WITH SUGGESTED REPLY. GIVEN FOUCHET'S ANNOUNCED CANDIDACY, EMBASSY BELIEVES REPLY FROM PRESIDENT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AND RECOMMENDS LETTER BE ANSWERED BY RANKING DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SUCH AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN. TRANSLATION OF FOUCHET'S COVERING LETTER TO DCM, WHICH HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED, ALSO INCLUDED. POUCHING

ORIGINALS TO EUR/WE. END SUMMARY

2. TEXT OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON:

"APRIL 6, 1974

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH YOU HAVE COME TO FRANCE ARE SOLEMN. THE PREMATURE DEATH OF PRESIDENT GEORGES POMPIDOU SHARPLY POSES, FOR THE FRENCH PEOPLE AND FOR THE STATE, A PROBLEM WHICH NOT ONLY CONCERNS AN INDIVIDUAL BUT ALSO THAT OF CONTINUITY OR OF RUPTURE AND PERHAPS OF SURVIVAL.

THE BONDS WHICH UNITE OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE INNU-
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MERABLE. ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO REMIND YOU, ON THE EVE OF

THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES AND AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE CELEBRATING THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIED LANDINGS IN NORMANDY, THAT THEY ARE UNIQUE AND VITAL.

SO, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN OF THE GREAT PROBLEMS WHICH FRANCE MUST FACE, ASSUMES, IN THE PRESENT

JUNCTURE, A SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. IT IS ESPECIALLY THE CASE OF POLITICAL COOPERATION AMONG THE WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS RECENTLY GIVEN THE IMPRESSION OF BEING IN OPPOSITION.

DO YOU NOT THINK, HOWEVER, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT A EUROPE, INDEPENDENT AND MASTER OF ITS DECISIONS, WOULD BE FOR THE UNITED STATES A MORE VALUABLE PARTNER THAN A DISPERSED EUROPE WITHOUT A WILL OF ITS OWN? DO YOU REALLY FEAR THAT THIS EUROPE MANIFESTS ITSELF ONLY TO OPPOSE THE UNITED STATES, WHILE IT IS EVIDENT THAT, IF ITS INTERESTS DO NOT IDENTIFY THEMSELVES NECESSARILY WITH THOSE OF OUR AMERICAN ALLIES, THERE WOULD BE VERY LITTLE RISK THAT THEY WOULD BE DISUNITED TO THE POINT OF BEING IN CONTRADICTION WITH THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES?

AND DO YOU NOT CONSIDER THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD ACQUIRE MORE GLORY BEFORE HISTORY IF, FAITHFUL TO ITS GREAT LIBERAL AND DEMOCRATIC TRADITION, IT WOULD ENCOURAGE EUROPE TO UNITE RATHER THAN TO TRY TO SUBJECT IT TO A DIRECTION ALWAYS PRECARIOUS BECAUSE IT IS CONTESTED?

SUCH ARE THE QUESTIONS, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT I

WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU AT A TIME WHEN FRANCE WILL ENGAGE ITSELF IN A GREAT AND DIFFICULT DEBATE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE I MYSELF AM A CANDIDATE TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE ROLE I PLAYED IN THE PAST, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF GENERAL DE GAULLE, AT A TIME OF THE FIRST EFFORT FOR A POLITICAL UNIFICATION OF EUROPE, STILL TODAY GRANTS ME A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS REGARD.

PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

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(SIGNED) CHRISTIAN FOUCHET"

3. SUGGESTED REPLY:

"DEAR MR. FOUCHET:

THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 6. IN YOUR LETTER YOU STATED THAT THE US RECENTLY HAS GIVEN THE IMPRESSION OF BEING OPPOSED TO POLITICAL COOPERATION AMONG THE WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS.

ON THE CONTRARY, THE US HAS CONTINUALLY SUPPORTED ALL

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R 091716Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8214

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EFFORTS FOR A UNITED EUROPE. RECENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DIFFICULTIES SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS OPPOSITION ON THE PART OF THE US TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION. PRESIDENT NIXON IS CONVINCED THAT EUROPEAN UNITY AND ATLANTIC UNITY ARE MUTUALLY COMPATIBLE AND NOT EXCLUSIVE OF ONE ANOTHER.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND ITS WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES IS BASED ON A LONG HISTORY OF COOPERATION AND THE PURSUIT OF COMMON GOALS. THE TIES WHICH BROUGHT THE US AND EUROPE INTO MILITARY, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS REMAIN COMPELLING. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT PRESIDENT NIXON IS DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING THESE TIES.

THIS IS A PERIOD OF ADJUSTMENT FOR EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS ALIKE. WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR A SOUND SPIRIT OF CONSULTATION AND MUST WORK TOGETHER WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION.

APPROPRIATE CLOSE."

4. TEXT OF COVERING LETTER TO DCM:

"APRIL 6, 1974

DEAR MR. STONE,

SINCE I HAVE NOT YET HAD THE OCCASION TO MEET
YOUR AMBASSADOR, I AM SURE THAT MR. IRWIN WILL NOT BE
UPSET IF I ADDRESS MYSELF DIRECTLY TO YOU TO TRANSMIT
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THE ATTACHED LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON.

I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH
TO REMIND THE PRESIDENT THAT BEGINNING IN 1940 I WAS ONE
OF THE CLOSEST COLLABORATORS OF GENERAL DE GAULLE, AND
HIS MINISTER FOR SEVEN YEARS, AND THAT, IN PARTICULAR,
HE HAD ASKED ME TO DRAFT AND TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE WES-
TERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THE 'PLAN OF POLITICAL UNION OF
THE STATES', KNOWN AS THE 'FOUCHET PLAN.'

AT A TIME WHEN FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION, DISORIENTED
AND WORRIED, IS SEEKING ITS PATH, AND WHEN I COUNT ON
CONDUCTING MY CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, I INTEND TO GIVE A SPECIAL
IMPORTANCE TO EUROPEAN PROBLEMS, IT WOULD BE VERY IMPOR-
TANT TO ME IF I COULD HAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AN ANSWER
TO THE QUESTION WHICH I HAVE ASKED THE PRESIDENT.

THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE, PLEASE ACCEPT, DEAR MR.
STONE, THE ASSURANCES OF MY MOST CORDIAL CONSIDERATION.

(SIGNED) CHRISTIAN FOUCHET."

IRWIN

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